



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS 23 VIOLENT GANG MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES IN TWO-WEEK NATIONWIDE ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

Arrests made in Detroit under ICE's ongoing "Community Shield" anti-gang initiative

DETROIT– U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), today announced the arrest of 23 street gang members and associates during a two-week, nationwide enforcement action under the auspices of "Operation Community Shield," ICE's ongoing national anti-gang initiative.

Detroit ICE arrested 23 individuals who are members or associates of gangs representing Sureños, Sureños-13, Nortenos, and Muertos Treces.

From July 16 to July 28, ICE offices throughout the United States teamed up with federal, state and local law enforcement partners to target members of more than 54 violent street gangs.

Nationwide 582 gang members and associates, including 11 gang leaders, arrested in this two-week operation are accused of various criminal violations and/or administrative immigration violations. In total, 76 of these individuals have been charged with criminal violations that range from illegally re-entering the United States after deportation; to being alien in possession of a firearm; to possession of fraudulent documents or various state crimes.

The vast majority of the gang members and associates, 506, were arrested on administrative immigration charges, ranging from being a convicted felon foreign national subject to removal; to entering the country without inspection; to violating the terms of a visa. Of these individuals, 261 are foreign nationals who have prior criminal convictions, rendering them subject to removal from the United States.

"Street gangs in America have grown and expanded their influence to an alarming level, marked by increased violence and criminal activity," said Secretary Chertoff. "These gangs pose a severe threat to public safety and this growth must not go unchallenged. We will continue to coordinate our efforts closely with our law enforcement partners nationally and use our collective authorities to help rid our communities of this malignancy."

"We have a message for violent street gang members in America: 'stopping your violence and criminal activities is high on ICE's list of priorities,'" said Forman. "We're backing up our resolve with results. In the last two weeks we've arrested 11 of your gang leaders, 490 members and 81 associates in 27 states and we're just getting started."

"Criminal gangs survive and thrive on violence, fear and intimidation and the people of Michigan and Ohio are certainly not exempt from the public safety threat posed by these people", said Brian

M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "Operation Community Shield is our coordinated and continuing effort to bring the full weight and authority of ICE and of our partner agencies to bear against those who have embraced the criminal gang lifestyle and those who support it."

This initiative harnessed the work of 40 ICE offices and more than 84 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. This operation employed 384 ICE agents and officers, 247 state and local officers and 92 agents from the DEA, ATF and FBI.

Some of the gang members arrested locally in this operation include:

- On July 17, Detroit ICE agents assisted by Detroit police arrested Jose Gonzalez-Emilio who is a member of the "Sureños" gang. Gonzalez-Emilio has pending drug charges in Texas fleeing the State while out on bond.
- On July 17 in the Detroit area ICE agents arrested Sergio Angulo-Sanchez, who is an associate of the "Muertos Trece" gang, with a previous conviction for larceny. He was previously ordered removed from the U.S. and became a fugitive failing to appear for scheduled removal.

More than 1,057 arrests have been made under ICE's ongoing "Community Shield" anti-gang initiative to date.

ICE uses its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting gang-related narcotics smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of illegally derived assets.

Operation Community Shield involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. ICE uses intelligence on gang organizations and leadership provided by state and local authorities. This information is then used whenever possible to arrest, prosecute, and/or deport individual gang members.

Operation Community Shield also has an important foreign component, coordinating efforts through ICE's Attaché offices abroad, particularly with those governments that are also experiencing gang problems. ICE continues to participate in several anti-gang law enforcement summits and conferences throughout Central America to better coordinate anti-gang related efforts.

The initial target of Operation Community Shield was MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the country. In February, ICE kicked off the initiative with agents in six major U.S. cities conducting a coordinated enforcement operation that resulted in the arrest of 103 members of MS-13. In the months that followed, ICE agents throughout the country joined ranks and continued targeting MS-13 members in their jurisdictions.

In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community Shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities